FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 OCTOBER 1983

Lebanon

Political Developments — The National Dialogue Conference will be held at Beirut airport on 20 October with units from the Multinational Force providing security for the participants, Beirut radio announced. A REUTER report cited by the radio said that Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt rejected the choice of venue, however, while former President Sulayman Franjiyah told a news conference reported by the radio that he will leave the choice of the meeting place up to President Amin al-Jumayyil provided it is outside of the country. Sources in the National Salvation Front (NSF), which includes Franjiyah, Junblatt, and former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, told *As-Safir* that the final NSF position on the venue will be established at a meeting 19 October but stated that the NSF is leaning toward rejecting the meeting site, according to Beirut radio.

Meanwhile, the Security Arrangements Committee discussed cease-fire violations and speculated that a "fifth party" which is seeking to create tension and hinder the security efforts has entered the conflict, Beirut Radio reported.

Neutral Observers — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti confirmed that Italy will send 400 observers to Lebanon to monitor the cease-fire but ruled out their active involvement, ANSA reported. Saudi Arabia also is willing to send observers to help restore peace and stability in the region, Defense Minister Prince Sultan declared in a Rome dinner speech cited by ANSA.

Military Situation — Violent clashes in Suq al-Gharb between Lebanese Army and PSP units which extended to Kafr Shima and Ash-Shuwayfat intensified during the night while the security situation in southern Beirut deteriorated after a day of artillery exchanges and sniper fire by Amal Movement forces on Army units, Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios reported. However, an Amal source cited by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio denied that the movement's forces were involved in the fighting in the southern suburbs and stressed that Amal soldiers defended themselves only when cease-fire violations by other parties in the area became too intense.

In Tripoli, where the Islamic Unification Movement (IUM) clashed again with Lebanese Communist Party forces, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the leader of the IUM reached an agreement on countering the Syrian presence around the city, the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said. In return for providing military support and facilitating the deployment of PLO soldiers throughout the city, the IUM will receive financial support as well as arms and training under PLO supervision, the radios added.

PLO Affairs

The PLO faction As-Sa'iqah joined Fatah dissidents opposing the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat 18 October, according to AFP. Earlier, Palestine Liberation Army-Commander Muhammad Tariq al-Khadra had also rejected 'Arafat's leadership, a move denounced by pro-'Arafat PLO officers in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio as well as by a North Lebanon Voice of PLO radio commentary that described Al-Khadra as subject to Syrian "manipulation." Meanwhile, Palestinians in Jordan pledged continued support for 'Arafat and condemned the dissidents' actions in a telegram to 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reported by Baghdad Voice of PLO.

Israel

U.S., Syrian Military Activities — Israel is asking the United States to restrict 6th Fleet air activity in the eastern Mediterranean because it is endangering civilian air traffic to and from Israel, reported Jerusalem radio. In another Jerusalem radio report, Defense Minister Moshe Arens noted that Israel is aware that modern Soviet missiles are being stationed near Damascus, but he doubts the missiles "really change" the regional balance of power. Arens also asserted that Israel will have to step up its security expenditures because of the Syrian buildup along the border.

Finance Minister — The Cabinet unanimously approved the appointment of Yig'al Kohen-Orgad as finance minister, IDF Radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi newspaper *Ath-Thawrah* "expressed satisfaction" at the U.S. warning to Iran that it will intervene if freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz is threatened and asserted that the U.S. "threat" "must be taken seriously," according to a Radio Monte Carlo report. Based on the U.S. position, the newspaper concluded that the United States is leaning toward supporting "decisive Iraqi action" against Iranian oil installations.

Iran

The Iranian Foreign Ministry categorically denied recent foreign news agency and Kabul radio reports that Iranian helicopters violated Afghan airspace, according to IRNA.

Egypt

In an interview with the Kuwaiti *As-Siyasah* reported by MENA, President Husni Mubarak stated that Egypt "will intervene to defend the Gulf states" if Iran carries out "its threats." On relations with the USSR, Mubarak declared that relations with the USSR will not improve until the USSR stops its "interference" in Egyptian domestic affairs.

Pakistan

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq discussed national issues with the leaders of the Khadsar and Jamiat-i-Ahl-Hadris movements, according to Karachi radio.

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AFP: Karmal Returns From Secret Visit to USSR

OW182222 Hong Kong AFP in English 2207 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 18 (AFP) — Afghan President Babrak Karmal has just returned from a secret visit to Moscow to discuss an imminent reshuffle of his government with Soviet leaders, a Western source in Islamabad said today.

Mr Karmal left Kabul on October 10, and returned to Kabul yesterday or today, the source added. His brother Mahmud Barialay, a member of the Afghan Communist Party Central Committee, was reportedly still in Moscow.

Afghan official radio has not confirmed or denied the reports.

The head of the KHAD, the Afghan secret services, Doctor Najibollah, has reportedly also recently paid a secret visit to Moscow, while an unnamed deputy minister from the Soviet Interior Minister arrived in Kabul yesterday.

Western sources in Islamabad suggested a month ago that a major reshuffle of Mr. Karmal's government was being planned.

The regime has remained virtually unchanged since Mr. Karmal came to power after the Soviet invasion in December 1979.

Three new ministers were appointed by Mr. Karmal in a mini-shuffle last week, but analysts said they were not particularly important moves, and had no real political significance.

Karmal Message to Afghans Living Abroad Published

LD190650 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Kabul, Oct 16, BAKHTAR: — Babrak Karmal's message to Afghans living abroad published KABUL NEW TIMES supplementary [as received] The national-Democratic April revolution, the message of the general secretary of Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA said, inflicted a deadly blow on the tyrannical domination of feudals and bureaucrats who had been keeping our people for years on end in poverty, disease and illiteracy. The April revolution is the beginning of the new and great path which leads our people towards prosperity, complete freedom, towards a new culture, health and progress.

We, the message emphasized, abhor fratricide, discord and animosity between our people. We have always fought for ensuring unity of action and strengthening brotherhood among all the tribes and nationalities inhabiting our united and beloved Afghanistan and will spare no effort in future, too, to achieve this end.

We assure you, compatriots, that in our country, nobody is subjected to persecution or investigation for his religious belief or political ideological inclinations. The rights, freedom, property, of individuals are protected.

In line with our peaceful approach towards the countrymen who have come under illusions, we have given legal force to this fact through the decree of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council on general amnesty dated June 18, 1981.

The U.S. imperialism and the regimes of Pakistan and China are using Afghans living abroad as a convenient and cheap tool.

The so-called leaders of the so-called Jamiat and Harkat e-Islami, etc, who themselves are leading a royal life in the decorated palaces make you an object of deals.

Life has shown that our party is getting stronger with every passing day, its link with the people is getting consolidated and the enemy is becoming weak,

In conclusion, the message said, in the name of Afghan honour, in the name of the country, wake up and return to your country. Return to your homeland which [is] waiting for you and has a right on you. The country will embrace you in its fold.

The government and the state of the DRA will ensure for you the necessary conditions for engaging in fruitful and useful social work and leading a befitting human life. Make use of this real possibility which can change your destiny and that of your children in a honourable and desired direction.

SPA Reports Soviet MIG Attacks, Mujahidin Actions

LD190150 Riyadh SPA in English 1911 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 18, SPA -- Nearly forty per cent [of the] buildings in Istalef Township in Shomali region, 14 km north of Kabul, were razed to ground as a result of a series of attacks by Soviet MIGs and helicopters in the township on October 12, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources said the attack on Istalef was part of a series of unprecedented and wide ranging communist offensives against the Afghan Moslem people in Herat, Qandahar, Laghman, Kabul, Parlan (including Shomali region), Baghlan,and Samangan Provinces of Afghanistan. They did not provide any figures on death casualties, but the bad smell of dead bodies laid in the rubble was apparent from quite a big distance, adding that casualties in Istalef were higher than at any time since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Yhe sources said assassinations of pro-regime personnel continued in Kabul despite a lull in fighting between the mujahideen and the communist regime's troops.

On the false pretext of arresting the culprits, the Russian soldiers made house-to-house searches during curfew hours in Kabul and broke into houses where innocent Moslems were residing and kidnapped four young women. Outraged citizens went to the police station where police officials told them that the Soviet troops only looted house belongings but did not take away any women.

The sources said the mujahideen used successfully for the first time land mines inside Kabul City. A civilian vehicle struck by mines in Karte-Nau District on southeastern edge of Kabul resulted in the killing of two people, they added.

The sources said a Soviet tank collided with a public bus, on October 12 resulting in the killing of eight persons and injuring several others. They added that three Afghan military officers were assassinated at their Kabul homes during pre-curfew hours in addition to the kidnap of four officers.

A one-day strike to protest against bad communist policies was observed by students at Kabul University who later boycotted the classes, resulting in the closure of the university. The sources said communist regime's forces increased their sweep operations in Herat in western Afghanistan close to Iranian borders, adding that the regime deployed almost all of its 17th Division in the area, except a few to guard government installations. They added that the regime's forces also installed a number of military posts on the main road linking Herat and Islam-Qala. The sources said the mujahideen succeeded in partially destroying Salma dam, west of Herat in early October. They also reported a large-scale defection in ranks of the regime's troops in eastern Paktia Province in view of the communist government's refusal to allow them to celebrate 'Id al-Adha.

Indian Guards Seize Trawler in Bay of Bengal

BK130331 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Text] A Bangladesh-chartered Thai fishing trawler was recently seized by Indian coastal guards in the Bay of Bengal. Reports from Calcutta say that the trawler was intercepted after the Indian coastal vessels fired several rounds. The trawler, with 4 Bangladeshis and 25 Thai nationals on board, is now under police custody at Haldia dock in West Bengal.

Ershad Sends Condolence Message to ROK President

BK110959 Dhaka BSS in English 0939 GMT 11 Oct 83

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 11 BSS — Lt. General H.M. Ershad, president of the Council of Ministers, has sent a message of condolence and sympathy to President Chon Tu-hwan on the death of the deputy prime minister and three other cabinet ministers of the Republic of Korea in Sunday's bomb explosion in Rangoon.

The Bangladesh leader expressed heartfelt condolences for the members of the bereaved families and said that he was grateful to the Almighty for sparing the life of President Chon himself.

He also sent another message of condolence to U Maung Maung Kha, the Burmese prime minister, expressing grief at the death of Burmese officials at the explosion on Sunday.

Five Awami League Leaders Reportedly Expelled

BK130329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Oct 83

[Text] In Bangladesh, five leaders, including the party general secretary, Mr Razzak, have been expelled from the Awami League. The decision was taken at a meeting of the party's General Working Committee in Dhaka yesterday.

Trudeau To Pay 3-Day Visit From 19 November

BK070715 Dhaka BSS in English 0625 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 7, BSS — Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau will pay a three-day official visit to Bangladesh from November 19 at the invitation of Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad, president of the Council of Ministers, it was announced here Thursday.

Mr. Trudeau will be the first Canadian head of government to visit Bangladesh.

The visit is being considered in Dhaka as very important since it signifies the close bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two Commonwealth countries.

Briefs

Ties With Djibouti — Dhaka, Oct 13 (BSS) — Bangladesh and the African Republic of Djibouti have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, the Foreign Ministry announced last night. Dhaka will maintain diplomatic relations with the African republic through concurrent accreditation of one of its ambassador-high commissioners from a nearby resident mission. The decision came into effect from 25th of last month, the announcement added. [Text] [Dhaka BSS in English 0633 GMT 13 Oct 83 BK]

Visit to Abu Dhabi — Dhaka, Oct 15, BSS — Bangladesh Finance Minister A.M.A. Muhith left here last night for Abu Dhabi for a two-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates. During his stay in Abu Dhabi, the finance minister will discuss important bilateral issues with the UAE Government. [Text] [Dhaka BSS in English 0720 GMT 15 Oct 83 BK]

IDA, Canadian Grant — IDA and the Canadian International Development Agency have provided about 750 million taka as a grant to Bangladesh. The money will be used to build 150 small-scale water control structures to protect 550,000 acres of land throughout the country from flooding. [Excerpt] [Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1100 GMT 4 Oct 83 BK]

Prime Minister Speaks of 'Looming Danger' to Country

BK181643 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, has warned the people against various dangers looming over the country and affecting it indirectly.

Addressing the first world Sindhi conference in New Delhi today, she said some external powers want to weaken us and desire that we should follow their line of thinking. Mrs Gandhi said we have to save the country from being disintegrated and maintain its prestige, culture, and tradition. She said, today, unity is needed more than ever before to strengthen the country and carry it onward to progress. We have to give a new direction to the country so that there is further growth in national wealth, she added.

Gandhi, Venkataraman Address Army Conference

BK190308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The prime minister has expressed concern over the growing arms race. Opening the biennial Army commanders conference in New Delhi yesterday, Mrs Gandhi said this is creating problems for India. She said the country has to remain vigilant as attempts are being made to influence the nations in our neighborhood. The 7-day conference will review the operational and other requirements of the Army.

The prime minister also expressed concern over the recent increase in terrorist activities within and outside the country. She said it is no consolation for us that increase in such activities is a world phenomenon. She described the Indian Army as a major force in national integration. Referring to the service conditions, Mrs Gandhi said the next (?cadre) review would further improve them.

In his address, the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, said there has been a deterioration in the security environment in the recent past. He said that Pakistan's accelerated rearmament program may create problems for us. Referring to the reports of supply of the Vulcan-Phalanx close-in weapon system and Harpoon missiles, he said these are patently offensive weapons and unmatched in the region. The Indian concern about the Pakistan-American relationship is based on the fact that assistance to Pakistan is much in excess of her actual defense needs, he added.

Sale of Mohawk Aircraft to Pakistan Discussed

BK181726 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Pakistan is to get from the United States four Mohawk surveillance planes. This has been reported in a Washington journal, *Defense and Foreign Affairs*. The request for these aircraft, the cost of which has not been disclosed, was made byPakistan in June this year. Described as Army observation aircraft, Mohawk carries both photo and infrared surveillance system. It also has a side-looking airborne radar system.

PTI, quoting defense analysts in New Delhi, says that with this new acquisition, the Pakistan Army will have for the first time the capability to monitor even at night armored and troop movements 40 to 50 km inside Indian territory.

Union Cabinet Meets on Situation in Punjab 18 Oct

BK181635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] A message just received from PTI says the union Cabinet met in New Delhi this evening and is understood to have discussed the situation in Punjab. Mrs Gandhi presided. Earlier, the Punjab governor, Mr B.D. Pande, met the prime minister and apprised her of the situation in the state.

Two Killed, Three Injured in Bihar Procession

BK190311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] In Bihar, two persons were killed and three others injured when a procession was stoned in Hazaribagh on Monday last. A state press release in Patna said last evening that the situation has now been brought under control.

'Serious Note' Taken of Srinagar Cricket Match Incident

BK181409 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] The center is reported to have taken serious note of the incidents of the 1-day cricket match between India and the West Indies at Srinagar on the 13th of this month. In a letter to the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, the home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, is understood to have pointed out that the incidents were obviously preplanned and have been owned up [as heard] by an organization. The letter points out that the incidents cannot be dismissed as youthful exuberance.

Chief Minister Comments

BK181618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has criticized those elements who are now questioning the finality of the state's accession with the rest of the country. Addressing the annual function of (Anjuman-i-Muinul Islam) at (Sopore) near Srinagar today, he said these are the same people who have sworn allegiance to the country's Constitution.

Describing the Srinagar incidents during the cricket match [between India and West Indies] as shameful, the chief minister said it has brought disrepute to the state as well as to the country.

Strike Observed Over Incident

BK190909 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] A bundh [strike] is being observed in Jammu division of Jammu and Kashmir in protest against the unruly happenings on the 13th of this month during the cricket match between India and the West Indies at Srinagar. The call for bundh was given by Bharatiya Janata Party.

President Meets With Political Delegations 18 Oct

BK181554 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] A delegation of the defunct Khaksar Movement led by Khan Mohammad Ashraf Khan called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. During the meeting, which lasted for 3 and 1/2 hours, the president's 12 August announcement and matters of national interest were discussed in detail.

Later, a delegation of the defunct Jamiat-i- Ahl-i-Hadis, Pakistan, led by Maulana Moinuddin Naqvi, met with the president in Rawalpindi. They held an indepth discussion on the president's 12 August program and the country's situation.

During both meetings, the president was assisted by Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, Interior Minister Mahmud A. Haroon, and Lieutenant General K.M. Arif. Khan Mohammad Ashraf Khan of the defunct Khaskar Movement was assisted by Alhaj Mohammad Sarfraz Khan, [words indistinct], Amir Habibullah Khan Sa'di, and Khwaja Ghulam Farid Sethi. Maulana Moinuddin of the Jamiat-i-Ahl-i-Hadis was assisted by Mian Fazle Haq, Qari Abdul Haq, Maulana Abdur Rahman, Haji Mohammad Yusuf, Maulana Abdullah Chowdhury, Mohammad Yaqub, Syed Habibur Rahman, and Maulana Abdul Aziz.

Reportage on UN Delegate's Statements

Jammu, Kashmir Discussed

BK181209 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan has pledged continued support to peoples for the exercise of the legitimate and recognized rights to self-determination and has drawn attention to the unresolved question of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the General Assembly Third Committee, the Pakistan delegate, Mr Javed Hussain, said Pakistan's position on the issue is well known and does not require reiteration or elaboration. This reference evoked a reply from India's delegate who claimed that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India to which the principle of self-determination could not be applied. This was dismissed by the Pakistan representative as an opinion held by India. In his speech, Mr Hussain said in cases where the desire of the people about their political status was in doubt or a subject of dispute, their wishes can be ascertained through a plebiscite or other democratic modality conducted under impartial auspices. The Pakistan representative commended the role of United Nations in accelerating the process of decolonization and called on the world organization to continue its efforts to achieve universal realization of the right to self-determination.

Referring to the Afghan problem, he said Pakistan has extended full cooperation to the efforts of the UN secretary general to find a peaceful political settlement and will persevere in the search for a settlement. He said attempts to suppress the struggle against foreign occupation has caused the exodus of 3 million Afghan refugees, posing a heavy burden on Pakistan's resources.

The Pakistan delegate also reiterated his country's solidarity under [as heard] the leadership of the PLO and said all necessary steps should be taken to enable them to exercise their right to self-determination. He also called for military and economic sanctions against the Pretoria regime so that the Namibian people could achieve independence without delay.

Nuclear Program Defended

BK181651 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] At the UN General Assembly main committee debate on disarmament, Pakistan's delegate has reiterated that Pakistan has no intention of exercising its nuclear weapons option and its nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes. Exercising his right to reply in the debate, he expressed surprise at the Soviet delegate's reference to Pakistan in the context of nuclear weapons proliferation. The Soviet delegate had earlier spoken of the prospects of various countries, especially Pakistan, acquiring nuclear weapons.

Pakistan's delegate also drew attention to Pakistan's consistent and full support to the concept of a nuclear weapons-free zone, especially declaring South Asia as a nuclear weapons-free zone. He reminded the Soviet delegate that Pakistan had also voiced support for arms reduction at all international forums, especially at the Geneva talks, to avert dangers of nuclear weapons.

JANG Assails BBC, UK Government Attitude on Pakistan

GF181345 Lahore Jang in Urdu 23 Sep 83 p 3

[Editorial: "Not Only BBC, But British Government Too"]

[Text] Many thinking people in Pakistan together with many educational, cultural, and social societies have expressed indignation over the fact that the BBC, under its Jewish chairman, has crossed all boundaries in propaganda against Pakistan. This anti-Islamic organization is working against Pakistan by painting a dismal picture of Pakistan before the world public, like it did in 1971.

We consider that the BBC is not alone in this matter. The British Government is also involved in this game. The British Government has been providing shelter to all those people whose enmity to Pakistan is known to all and who are involved in all kinds of crimes. These fugitives openly hold meetings in Britain. They also distribute literature assailing the introduction of Islamism into Pakistan. Apart from this, the people who, according to their own admission, claim to be anti-British also visit that country from time to time and stay there for months and on their return announce that Pakistan was after all a British creation.

The surprising thing is not that the attitudes of the BBC and the British Government toward Pakistan are animical, but that the Pakistan Government never seems to protest such propaganda.

We believe that this attitude of the BBC and the British Government should never be overlooked. To combat this Jewish propaganda against Pakistan, delegations should be sent to other countries. The members of these delegations should not be bureaucrats and should be people capable of influencing public opinion in those countries. These people should be selected through reliable agencies. It is also advisable that the organizations or societies who are expressing indignation over the anti-Pakistan attitude of the BBC should give their protest a definite shape and help expose the unholy alliance between the British and the Jews.

Official Leaves for Syria To Discuss Gulf, Hormuz

LD181729 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Sheykh ol-Eslam, Foreign Ministry political under secretary,left Tehran this afternoon for Damascus. He will visit Syria, Algeria, Libya, the PDRY, and a number of African countries to discuss current developments in the region and African problems. Before leaving Tehran, he granted an interview with correspondents in connection with his visit to Syria, which is the first country he will be visiting, and the issues which he will discuss in his meetings with the officials of that country. He said:

The two countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria have always had close relations with each other and it is natural that we will have discussions on various issues. In this trip, while reviewing bilateral relations and ways of expanding and strengthening them, we will also have some discussions about the current developments of the region in connection with the incitements and conspiracies of imperialism and Zionism. The decisive position of the Islamic Republic against the futile attempts which are being made to save Saddam from the abyss which he has created for himself and which are being pursued by the superpowers will be discussed.

The Foreign Ministry political under secretary said: Another issue which we will discuss will be the designs of world arrogance concerning the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Our position on this issue has been clearly and decisively stated and we think that there is no ambiguity concerning it. We believe that the safeguarding of the security of the Strait of Hormuz is the task solely of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the countries of the region and no foreign power has any right to interfere in this region or any other region.

Finally, he said: With France's delivery of sophisticated planes to Iraq we regard the arrogant powers, especially France, as responsible for any conflagration in the Persian Gulf. Of course, this position is not something new and the whole world is aware of it. In the past too we have had discussions concerning it with our brothers in Syria.

Commentary on U.S. 'Impasse' in Strait of Hormuz

LD181352 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1112 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Now that the Islamic Republic of Iran is about to create an impasse for world imperialism in the Strait of Hormuz, the West is realizing the futility of Washington's initial assessment in seeking assistance from the Zionist Iraqi regime to counter the Islamic Republic. The outcome of more than 3 years of war, imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Iraqi Zionist regime, points to the defeat of Western imperialism in a strategic region.

The fact of the matter is that within the context of the Indian Ocean's strategic regions, the Persian Gulf enjoys a superior position, particularly in view of the fact that more than 60 percent of the world's known oil resources are to be found in the Gulf. It is therefore with this in mind that imperialism has become truly apprehensive and active. The impasse in which imperialism has now been trapped is the outcome of the mentality of the policymakers whose mental cornerstone is based on mathematical equations, who, when assessing strength, compare the two sides' military power, whereas within the term power there exists a powerful psychological factor emanating from man's faith.

As far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned, the passage of the U.S. fleet through the Suez Canal and its advance toward Persian Gulf waters have no importance. This naval maneuver, used by imperialism as a lever to exert pressure and secure its arrogant interests, is indicative of a corruption which is intrinsic and inherent in the nature of imperialism. In other words, it is in imperialist's nature to apply its material might to achieve and secure its interests by means of threat and intimidation. However, the response by the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation to these repetitious tactics is that peace and security are indivisible.

The Persian Gulf will only become secure when the Islamic Republic of Iran, too, (?acts) as a dominant country in the Strait of Hormuz. [Words indistinct] for a Muslim, with the objective of securing peace and security for the oppressed peoples of the Middle East, the goal is the annihilation of imperialism and of the domination of imperialist Zionism in the region.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Analyzes Iran-Iraq War

GF181419 Tehran Jomhuri-ye Eslami in Persian 29 Sep 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Events of the War"]

[Excerpts] Three years have elapsed since the large-scale attack by 14 large-scale artillery, infantry, and mechanized divisions of the Ba'thist Iraqi Army commenced with the aim of creating fundamental changes on the Iranian political scene.

What we should do is to plan in such a way that the initiation of a war and its continuation does not remain advantageous to those who ignited this conflagration and proves to be a heavy liability to the East and West. In other words, the more the political planners of the war become sanguine about the results of a "controlled war," the more will they direct their efforts in expanding it. However, in a situation wherein the continuation of the war entails a blow to the interests of the countries supporting the aggressor and inflicts irrevocable harm and does not remain limited to inflicting lethal blows on the form of the aggressor, it will contribute to the stability of the region and the initiators of the war will not remain immune from the far-reaching repercussions. Failing this, we will have to anticipate a fresh war of a special kind which will engulf the whole region.

It can be said that in the camp opposite the Islamic Revolution, all the countries which see that their interests lie in the crushing of the rightful movement of our nation, have invested in this war. For the same reason, the Soviet Union, which professes to be a supporter of liberation movements, does not economize on the

lavish and magnanimous gifts of MiG's, FROG's, long-range guns, and modern T-72 tanks. The unfortunate Socialists and French are entering the foray with presents of Mirages and Super Etendards to Iraq and there are 6,000 military experts in the capacity as implementors of Washington's Middle East policy.

At this juncture, it would be appropriate to refer to the role of the Western propaganda network, especially the publicized American forces. The mechanism of the Western dissemination machinery has always been to justify the reasons for the aggression of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime and at a sensitive point in the war, prepare the way for a short term cease-fire in order to provide respite for the aggressor to recoup his losses.

The United Nations and the UN General Assembly have displayed their genuine support for the Baghdad regime. In these 3 years of the war, they have not demanded a withdrawal of the aggressive Iraqi forces nor have they made any attempt to end the aggression of the Baghdad regime.

The West is apprehensive of the consequences of the defeat of Iraq but continues to implement and welcome fresh schemes to inflict harm on the Islamic Revolution. It is the motivating factor behind the establishment of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force and the European dominating countries. Despite this, the West knows that in the event of overt and direct interference in the Persian Gulf, it will suffer a firm blow, the effects of which will be felt all over the world for a long time. To avert such a phenomenon, it is essential to set up a military force in the area for such sensitive moments. The shaykhs' initiative in setting up a Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] stems from this. In other words, the setting up of the GCC is the brainchild of the Arabs of the area and the product of the propaganda machinery and power network of the West. Thus, by fanning the venemous propaganda that the imposed war of Iraq against Iran is a Gulf war or a war of Arabs and the Gulf, or even a war encompassing the whole region, it attempts to portray every victory of the Islamic combatants in a ghastly manner and,hence, justifies the need for a Gulf Cooperation Council. This gives the shaykhs of the area the impression that by forming the GCC they will be immune from the effects of the events in the area. At present, the Council is merely for the implementation of Washington's Middle East policy and is in reality a mask for the Saudi court to do as it pleases with the other members.

In this way, the GCC is also a suitable conduit for the induction of the vagrant petrodollars for the ordinance industries of the West, because the Council is obliged to purchase enormous quantities of military supplies in proportion to the vast danger portrayed as looming overhead.

Here it would not be irrelevant to point out that with the passage of time we are witnessing a new military phenomenon in the form of the "multinational force."

The United States is able to embroil those countries of the region which have vital or avaricious interests in the nexus of political events in the Middle East.

The imposed war of Iraq against Iran is an obvious example of an ideal opportunity for involving the regimes of the area because, in this case, the affiliations of these states surpass their geographical boundaries. Thus, a blow on the interests of the intervening country is tantamount to a direct blow on the foundations of such regimes — a blow that can threaten to shake and even topple the foundations of the affiliated regimes. This is an irrefutable fact revealed by a 3-year-old war and the real facts will undoubtedly transpire with the continuation of the war and the eventual downfall of the aggressive regime.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,494

LD181716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,494 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Offering our condolences on the martyrdom anniversary of His Holiness Imam Zayn al-'Abidin, peace be upon him, a summary report on the events at the battlefronts hereby is announced:

At 1130 today, an intruding enemy aircraft was shot down over the Marivan area by the fighter aircraft and the air defense units of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Exchanges of fire continued yesterday on the Piranshahr, Baneh, Sar Dasht, and Marivan operational fronts. Our forces opened fire on the enemy's supply axes and bases in the Hajj 'Umran and Darband areas and, by stopping the movements of the vehicles and the trench- digging activities of the Saddamists, set fire to one supply depot and two ammunition huts of the enemy.

On the Bakhtaran border fronts, our forces' fire on the enemy positions and fortifications destroyed two trucks carrying servicemen and two construction vehicles of the mercenaries and damaged a tank.

Yesterday on the southern fronts, exchanges of heavy weapons fire continued along all the contact lines. Our artillery units, returning fire and destroying part of the enemy's positions and defense lines, inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamists.

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational zones, our combat units, based on the banks of the Arvand Rud, opened fire on enemy positions on the other side of the river and set fire to and destroyed several light and heavy weapons emplacements of the enemy.

Residential areas of the city of Abadan yesterday came under the sporadic fire of the enemy's long-range weapons.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Afghan Allegations on Airspace Violations Denied

GF181545 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry Tuesday categorically denied stories by foreign news agencies based on a report by Radio Kabul that Iranian helicopters violated Afghan airspace.

A spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, rejecting such allegations, said that Afghan regime, in order to conceal its repeated violations against Iranian territory which led to numerous protests, had fabricated such allegations and false charges.

During the past few months, the spokesman added, air violations of Afghan regime against airspace of Iran and other neighbouring countries had increased. He noted that so far no reply had been made to the protests of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this respect, adding that they now intended to neutralise the case through such moves.

The French news agency reported that on last Sunday and Monday Iranian helicopters violated Afghan airspace in southwest of Nimruz Province in order to provide revolutionaries with air support. Afghan officials, the report added, protested the Islamic Republic for such a measure.

NVOI Commentary Scores Violation of Afghan Airspace

TA181454 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Refrain From Adventures Against Democratic Afghanistan"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Every passing day our homeland's people observe and witness the Islamic Government's further retreat from the popular and anti-imperialist goals of the glorious Iranian Revolution, whether in the sphere of domestic policy or in the arena of foreign policy.

Despite the hollow anti-imperialist and anti-U.S. claims by Iran's rulers, all the acts and deeds of these gentlemen who have assumed power are in a direction favored by world-devouring America. As an example, one can mention the policy and approach by the Islamic Republic of Iran Government toward a neighboring country, namely, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. This policy and approach are not only a course of hostility toward the people and government of that country, but in many instances our homeland's so-called Islamic regime is even surpassing Ziaul Haq, the Saudis, and other allies and puppets of U.S. imperialism.

The pseudoclergy's government has given refuge in our country to a large number of mercenaries and murderers in the pay of expelled Afghan feudalists, khans, and sirdars, and with the aid of experts affiliated with imperialism and Zionism, it is giving them military training and instructions in sabotage in special bases and camps. Afterward, this government sends these bands to Afghanistan to massacre Muslim women and children and to try to establish in that liberated land a regime similar to the one ruling over Iran or Pakistan.

The fact that the pseudoclergy gentlemen are spending enormous sums of money, at the cost of the tears and blood of our homeland's people, to maintain, train, and arm these (?mercenary) Afghans and are futilely attempting through them to export their so-called Islamic Revolution to Afghanistan as well is something that is obvious to our dear compatriots. But it should be stated that the policy of adventurism and that of creating enemies adopted by the Islamic regime with regard to Afghanistan has met with failure. The Afghan people have sensed with their whole being the crimes of so-called Afghan mujahidin supported by America, Pakistan, and Iran's regime and have risen in struggle against them.

The goal of right-wing authorities in the pseudoclergy's government who pursue U.S. policy has failed to materialize in Afghanistan. This has caused the alarm and wrath of these gentlemen who have now resorted to their final weapon. The pseudoclergy's regime, which perceives itself as the hope of all the world's oppressed and which does not see any limits to its interference in the affairs of other states and in creating enemies for Iran, is now so impudent that it is sending its warplanes and military helicopters over Afghanistan, in the style of world-devouring America, in order to create a new adventure that would be to America's liking.

It seems that in the dictionary of these gentlemen who have usurped authority, international mores, and principles, as well as moral and human standards, are not worth a penny. Should their evil interests deem it, they can sacrifice hundreds of thousands of Iranian youths for their foolish adventures.

Recently the Afghan Government protested the hostile acts and violation of Afghan airspace by Iranian warplanes and helicopters and explicitly demanded that officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran put an end to such acts. The protest note by the DRA Government to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphatically stresses that in the event of a repetition of such acts, all responsibility of their consequences will rest with the Iranian Government.

Yes, the regime ruling over our country is in the process of launching calamitous adventures and is endeavoring by all means to impose on our homeland's people another war of border clashes. Our homeland's people must redouble their political awareness and should not allow the pseudoclergy's government to turn their youths and dear ones into cannonfodder by launching a new adventure.

Officials Criticize Attitude of European Countries

GF181605 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA — The seminar of supervisors of the representative offices of the Islamic Republic in Europe and America was inaugurated here today in the presence of Prime Minister Musavi at the Foreign Ministry building.

During the meeting, the prime minister explained the stance of Western European countries vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said that the five-year experience of the Islamic Republic especially during the three years of Iraqi imposed war taught the people that despite the expansion of relations with those countries any time a case arose concerning the security of the Islamic Revolution, they, whether East or West, reacted contrary to the interests of the Islamic Republic. Islamic Republic should not rely on any of these powers.

Later on Foreign Minister Velayati, addressed the audience saying that they were ambassadors of Islamic country in the oppressive world. A world which oppressed the nations and had exercised suppressive domination over the people for three or four centuries, he said. It was presently enforcing the same despotic rule under other guises and in novel forms, Velayati noted.

Talking about the political and economic relations of the Islamic Republic with European countries, Dr. Velayati warned that although they presented a friendly visage, but deep down in their hearts they were against the Islamic Republic.

The seminar is to continue for two weeks.

Environmental Chief Cites Ecological Achievements
GF181601 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA — The head of the Organisation for Protection of the Environment, Mirza Taheri who has returned from a trip to Pakistan and Japan, in a press conference here today said that during the symposium for wild life in Pakistan he explained the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran vis-a-vis the wild life and the natural resources. It was also pointed out that the Muslim nation of Iran on the basis of its precepts had been committed to protecting the wild life. To this end, hunting the endangered species of the animals has been prohibited, he added.

He further added that the achivement of the Iranian workers in capping the damaged offshore oil well in the Persian Gulf was praised by the Pakistani authorities. Furthermore, the Japanese officials were also impressed by the work done by the Iranian oil workers and engineers.

He further added that the Iranian factories have been observing environmental protection guidelines set up by the organisation.

As for the forthcoming session of the Regional Organisation for Protection of Environment, he said that it was scheduled to be held late this month. However, experience of the past showed that some reactionary Arab governments might procrastinate.

Montazeri Cautions Against Inaccurate Reporting
GF151630 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Qom, Oct. 15, IRNA — The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY's (IRNA) representatives in foreign countries accompanied by Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, managing director of IRNA, called on Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri here Friday.

In this meeting Dr. Kamal Kharrazi gave a report on the activities of IRNA representatives abroad and the prevailing issues in the organisation. Ayatollah Montazeri, while commending activities of IRNA said that the duties entrusted to them in any place primarily aimed at serving Islam and the people, and as such were considered as the highest worship in the presence of the Almighty. Ayatollah Montazeri further stressed that safeguarding the prestige and honor of Islam and the Islamic Revolution abroad was a grave task assigned to representatives. Therefore they should endeavour to publish the facts and the issues of the revolution, familiarizing the world with the objectives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and abstain from publishing doubtful and ambiguous news, be it locally or abroad, he said.

Stressing on expanding IRNA branches abroad, Ayatollah Montazeri said that the representatives abroad were expected to provide the domestic media with appropriate news concerning Friday prayer ceremonies and religious congregations abroad as well as the news about the Islamic authorities in foreign countries.